



N O M A D

Subarctic Interdisciplinary Field Station

Operational and Logistic Agenda for First Migration (March 2007-February 2008)

Yulian Konstantinov (February 2007)

Month 1 (March 2007)

Late winter grazing, preparations for spring/ summer

Key issues: Organizational rhythm of the end of the harvesting campaign. Final corralling activities. Re-composition of herds. Formal and informal trading activities. Herd leaves winter grazing range.

Task 1: Arrival in Lovozero, attending the Festival of the North (*Prazdnik Severa*, 23 March 2007). Checking machinery and equipment; transporting luggage for spring/ summer migration; stoking up with food and fuel for the following three months. Medical check-up

Month 2 (April 2007)

“Final” corralling and harvesting activities before the herd moves to calving grounds

Key issues: Does harvesting connect with late pregnancies and beginning of calving? Moral issues connected with this. Is there an early spring march to the coastal pastures due to the combined effect of early melting of ice on rivers/lakes and late round-ups? (When does the movement of the herd begin in relation to late round-ups; first births; crossing of the River Lokanga line in relation to state of ice-surface and human presence in the Kolm'yavr area; by-passing of old calving grounds; fast forward movement of pregnant female part of the herd).

Task 2: (a) Following the Kolm'yavr Herd in the region Belaia Golovka Hill – Lake Rodnik; (b) Participation in final round-up sessions.

Task 3: Following the herd to Lake Porosozero - Kolm'Yavr –Ketkozero – Vas'ka Gora Hill-River lokanga.

Task 4: Making spring(calving) camp at the Lake Ketkozero Salma (late April).

Month 3 (May 2007)

Calving – (expected calving peak: 14-24 May)

Key issues: Does the combined effect of climate change/ “hidden privatization” of collective herd lead to the by-passing of traditional calving grounds by the female part of the herd? Can we talk of a “forced march” to the sea-coast as a result of combined human/ climatic factors? Is calf-marking (“by the mother”) carried out? Is calf-marking carried out at all? (Do we notice pronounced gender/age fragmentation; what part of the herd utilizes traditional calving grounds – pregnant/birthing females or non-productive males? Presence/ absence of calf-marking; rate of advance of female fragments; peak of calving; number and condition of calves; predator (bear) action).

Task 5: Location of calving peak pastures.

Task 6: Splitting of team into two parts: (a) one staying in the area Ketkozero-Vas'ka Gora (main spring – early summer camp); (b) a second sub-group following main female fragment (lighter tent camp – boat).

Task 7: Following herd to Lakes Popovskoe – Enozero – coast.

Month 4 (June 2007)

Early summer grazing

Key issues: Are early summer grazing grounds used as calving grounds in an altered migration cycle? What is the current state of these pastures? In case of degradation, how does this on calving/ early calf-development? (State of grazing range; calving and calf-development; encounters with humans (legitimate/ illegitimate users; others); predator pressure (human/non-human)).

Task 8: Continued observation of old calving grounds at Ketkozero-Kalmozero.

Task 9: Noting instances of corralling in the Porosozero-Kolm'yavr-Tichka area. If such: is calf marking done; mature animal marking; meat-harvesting; number of abandoned calves and their utilization.

Task 10: Watching fragmentarization of herd; sled-buck release; fishing activities; return to the village on the part of herding teams from tundra camps (reindeer herders' brigades) 1, 2, 8, and 9 (Porosozero-Kolm'yavr-Liavozero).

Month 5 (July 2007)

Herd dispersed along the coast – summer grazing

Key issues: What is the current state of summer pastures? Are there instances of human contact with rangifers during this period? Do we notice non-migrating behaviour (i.e. staying throughout the summer at traditional calving grounds by

non-productive part of the herd, or very late leaving of these grounds in the direction of summer pastures)?

Task 11: Monitoring in the area around Lake Ketkozero-Vas'ka Gora-Tichka.

Task 12: Determining state of degradation of summer pastures.

Task 13: Non-migration/ late migration behaviour and its gender/age specifics

Task 14: Impact of "wild" tourism (*dikii turizm*).

Task 15: Impact of geological prospecting activities.

Month 6 (August 2007)

Beginning of back-migration

Key issues: Is there evidence of an early back-migration, and what may be the reasons for such (late July – early August)? What is the state of the calves; numbers; marking?

Task 16: Determining when back-migration begins at the coast (Enozero – Popovskoe, - by boat).

Task 17: Determining when back-migration begins in the intermediate zone (Ketkozero – Vas'ka Gora).

Task 18: State and number of calves.

Task 19: Human and rangifer mushroom/berry gathering/fishing related behaviour.

Task 20: Impact of tourist and/or geological prospecting (as in Tasks 14-15).

Month 7 (September 2007)

Intensification of human contact

(sled-buck retrieval; corralling and harvesting for pelts

Key issue: When and how is herders' contact with the herd resumed?

Task 21: Establish an observation point at Mount Diovin.

Task 22: Sled-buck retrieval – Iokanga – Diovin.

Task 23: Sled-buck retrieval – Porosozero-Kolm'yavr.

Task 24: Pelt-harvesting and related activities – Diovin.

Task 25: Pelt-harvesting and related activities – Porosozero-Kolm'yavr

Month 8 (October 2007)

Rutting period

Key issue: Rut management and herding teams' return to tundra base camps; fall fishing.

Task 26: The team regroups into a single camp at Lake Kalmozero – Maria Gora – Isakievskii Sobor - Ketkozero.

Task 27: Locate rut-range (swamps Maria Gora).

Task 28: Establish peak of rut.

Task 29: Return of the herding teams to intermediate tundra camps (dates and composition).

Task 30: Fall fishing, transportation, and utilization of catches.

Month 9 (November '06)

Beginning of harvesting time. Early winter grazing

Key issues: Organizational rhythm of the beginning of the harvesting campaign. Influence of climate change on beginning of harvesting activities.

Task 31: Follow the herd to the south-western rim of migration (River Kuliok).

Task 32: Composition of herding teams (brigades 1, 2, 8, and 9) and preparedness for harvesting.

Task 33: First freeze-ups and first corral at Corral Camp Porosozero.

Task 34: Corralling activities: harvesting (including antlers); marking; castration.

Task 35: Gender/age composition of herd; condition; inclusion of wild deer.

Task 36: Private/collective composition of herd; distribution among herding teams.

Task 37: Selling/ trading/ bartering activities; "internal" poaching; alcohol related status of herders and consequent activities.

Task 38: State of early winter pastures in the south-western migration zone.

Month 10 (December '06)

Harvesting continues. Mid-winter grazing

Key issues: Organizational rhythm of the beginning of the harvesting campaign. Is there evidence of "criss-cross" escape movement between the coastal and forest zones? If so, is this connected with increasing "wildness" of the (female) herd?

Task 39: Follow gathering up of herd and fragments along the line Kuliok – Belaia Golovka Hill.

Task 40: Establish winter camp at Belaia Golovka.

Task 41: Corralling activities at Corral Camp Belaia Golovka.

Task 42: State of mid-winter pastures in the central migration zone.

Task 43: Criss-cross movement between the coastal and forest zone. Send out a search party, following fragments between Belaia Golovka-Rodnik-Kolm'yavr-Ketkozzero-Vas'ka Gora-Coast.

Month 11 (January 2008)

Harvesting continues. Mid-winter grazing

Key issues: Organizational rhythm of the mid-harvesting campaign. Corralling activities. Composition of herds. Formal and informal trading activities.

Task 44: The team at B.Golovka monitors winter grazing and corralling activities. composition of herd; trading; internal/ external poaching; predator pressure.

Task 45: Continue monitoring of criss-cross movement (as in Task 43).

Task 46: Connect with activities at Sem'ostrovie Corral Camp

Month 12 (February 2008)

Harvesting continues. Late winter grazing

Key issues: Organizational rhythm of the late winter harvesting campaign.

Composition of herds. Formal and informal trading activities.

Task 47: The team continues monitoring the herd and related activities at Belaia Golovka.

Task 48: Continue monitoring of criss-cross movement (as in Task 43).

Task 49: Continue linkage with Sem'ostrovie Corral Camp

Task 50: Monitoring final corralling activities at Belaia Golovka.

Task 51: Return to Lovozero; storage of equipment; arrangements for further work.